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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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S/CT FOR BREELAND

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: UNITED KINGDOM: 1991 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 346420

11. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY INPUT FOR THE UK PORTION OF THE 1991 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 5 REFTEL ARE CONTAINED IN PARAS 3-10 BELOW.

12. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE FINAL REPORT INCORPORATE IN SOME FASHION THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON THE THREAT POSED BY TERRORISM TO THE UNITED KINGDOM:

- FOR TWO DECADES THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS FACED ONE OF THE MOST DETERMINED, SOPHISTICATED AND LETHAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORLD IN THE FORM OF THE PROVISIONAL IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY (PIRA) AND ITS OFFSHOOTS, MOST NOTABLY THE IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (INLA) AND THE IRISH PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (IPLO).
- THE ANNOUNCED AIM OF THE PIRA IS TO BRING ABOUT THE INCORPORATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND (AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND) INTO A NEW, RADICALLY SOCIALIST, UNITED IRISH STATE. ITS METHODS INCLUDE KILLING OF POLICE AND BRITISH ARMY FORCES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, AND BOMBING OF SHOPS, FACTORIES AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM.
- LARGELY IN RESPONSE TO PIRA ATTACKS, "LOYALIST" TERRORIST GROUPS SUCH AS THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) AND ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS (UFF) OVER THE YEARS HAVE MURDERED HUNDREDS OF CATHOLICS SUSPECTED OF "REPUBLICAN" SYMPATHIES.
- THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FATALITIES RESULTING FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND "TROUBLES" SINCE 1969 NOW EXCEEDS 3,000. WHILE BOTH "REPUBLICAN" AND "LOYALIST" PARAMILITARIES INSIST THEY TARGET ONLY SECURITY FORCES AND TERRORISTS ON THE OTHER SIDE, MOST OF THEIR VICTIMS HAVE IN FACT BEEN CIVILIANS.
- DIRECT ECONOMIC DAMAGES RESULTING FROM BOMBING AND ARSON, WHILE WELL BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE EARLY 1970'S, STILL RUN INTO THE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR, AND THE ECONOMIC COST OF LOST INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION IS MUCH HIGHER.
- PIRA IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ACQUIRED LARGE STOCKS OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FROM LIBYA.
- INCIDENTS AND THREATS OF TERRORISM OTHER THAN THOSE FLOWING FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION ARE RELATIVELY FEW, BUT NOT INSIGNIFICANT. BRITISH AUTHOR SALMAN RUSHDIE REMAINS UNDER THREAT FROM AN ASSASSINATION ORDER BY THE LATE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI, AND REQUIRES CONSTANT POLICE PROTECTION. IN ADDITION, BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE LIBERATION OF KUWAIT, AND THE ISSUANCE OF ARREST WARRANTS AGAINST LIBYAN OFFICIALS IN THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM 103, HAVE INCREASED THE UK'S SUSCEPTIBILITY TO ATTACK BY RADICAL ARAB GROUPS.

13. HOST GOVERNMENT PROSECUTIONS INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM:

- SIKH MILITANT PARAMJIT SINGH SIDHU AND TWO

ACCOMPLICES WERE CONVICTED IN JULY 1991 OF CONSPIRING TO CAUSE EXPLOSIONS IN THE UK.

- PROSECUTION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND CONTINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL: 131 WERE TRIED, AND 122 CONVICTED, OF TERRORISM-RELATED OFFENSES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1991.

14. EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS FOR PROSECUTION:

- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REQUESTED EXTRADITION OF CONVICTED PIRA BOMBER ANGELO FUSCO FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND IN DECEMBER 1991; FUSCO IS CURRENTLY ON BAIL PENDING AN EXTRADITION HEARING.
- PIRA BOMB-MAKER DESSIE ELLIS, WHO HAD SERVED EIGHT YEARS IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND FOR MAKING BOMBS FOR USE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WAS EXTRADITED TO LONDON IN NOVEMBER 1990 ON SIMILAR CHARGES CONCERNING THE 1980-81 BOMBING CAMPAIGN IN GREAT BRITAIN. IN OCTOBER 1991 ELLIS WAS ACQUITTED, APPARENTLY HAVING CONVINCED A JURY THAT HE HAD NEITHER KNOWN NOR INTENDED THAT HIS BOMBS WOULD BE USED ON THE BRITISH MAINLAND.

15. SIGNIFICANT IMPEDIMENTS TO HOST GOVERNMENT PROSECUTION AND/OR EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS:

- AS A RESULT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT FORENSIC EVIDENCE AND POLICE EXTRACTION OF CONFESSIONS, A NUMBER OF PERSONS FORMERLY CONVICTED OF TERRORIST OFFENSES ON THE BRITISH MAINLAND WERE RELEASED ON APPEAL DURING 1991.
- EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND REMAINS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS IN PROCEDURES AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE RESULTING FROM THE 1985 ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT AND DUBLIN'S 1987 RATIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM. MANY IN IRELAND CONTINUE TO REGARD PIRA ATTACKS IN THE UK AS "POLITICAL OFFENSES," AND VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE THE EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTS IN THESE CASES. THEY ALSO CONTINUE TO QUESTION WHETHER IRISH SUSPECTS CAN RECEIVE FAIR TRIALS IN BRITAIN.
- ON NOVEMBER 15, 1991 THE IRISH SUPREME COURT DENIED EXTRADITION OF TWO CONVICTED PIRA TERRORISTS WHO WERE WANTED ON WEAPONS POSSESSION CHARGES IN THE UK. THE COURT RULED THAT UNDER EXISTING IRISH LAW POSSESSION -- AS OPPOSED TO USE -- OF WEAPONS WAS A POLITICAL OFFENSE. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY PROMISED TO AMEND ITS LAWS TO CLOSE THIS LOOPHOLE.

16. HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSES OTHER THAN PROSECUTION:

- UK POLICY REMAINS STEADFAST IN REFUSING TO COUNTENANCE ANY CONCESSION TO TERRORISM, AND IS WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLICY.
- UK OFFICIALS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH THEIR U.S. COUNTERPARTS IN INVESTIGATING THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND. WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR THE ARREST OF TWO LIBYAN OFFICIALS BELIEVED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING, AND THE UK HAS JOINED THE U.S. IN DEMANDING CESSATION OF LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM.
- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S MAIN LEGAL TOOLS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM ARE THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ACT OF 1989 (PTA) AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACT OF 1991 (EPA). BOTH ACTS RE-ENACTED AND AMENDED PROVISIONS OF EARLIER LAWS.
- UNDER THE PTA, THE HOME SECRETARY (OR THE SECRETARY

OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND OR NORTHERN IRELAND, AS APPROPRIATE) MAY EXCLUDE PERSONS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORISM FROM ANY PART OR ALL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. POLICE MAY DETAIN SUSPECTED TERRORISTS WITHOUT CHARGE FOR 48 HOURS, AND FOR A FURTHER FIVE DAYS WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATE CABINET SECRETARY. IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1991, 1,232 PERSONS WERE DETAINED UNDER THE PTA, AND 440 EXTENSIONS BEYOND 48 HOURS WERE GRANTED.

- THE 1991 EPA CONSOLIDATED ALL THE COUNTERTERRORISM PROVISIONS OF PREVIOUS LAWS THAT APPLIED EXCLUSIVELY TO NORTHERN IRELAND. IT INTRODUCED NEW OFFENSES OF DIRECTING A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND POSSESSION OF ITEMS INTENDED FOR TERRORIST PURPOSES, AND GAVE AUTHORITIES NEW POWERS TO EXAMINE DOCUMENTS FOUND IN TERRORISM-RELATED SEARCHES, TO SEIZE EQUIPMENT USED TO REOPEN CLOSED BORDER CROSSINGS, TO INVESTIGATE THE FINANCING OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO CONFISCATE THE PROCEEDS OF TERRORIST-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

17. MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN IN 1991 BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT:

- IN ORDER TO ERADICATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CATHOLICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WHICH FUELS SUPPORT FOR THE PIRA, THE GOVERNMENT HAS VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED THE 1989 FAIR EMPLOYMENT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT. IT HAS ALSO INVESTED LARGE SUMS IN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE PROVINCE.
- THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED PIRA, INLA, IPLO, UVF AND UFF TO BE "PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS." MEMBERSHIP IN THEM IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE, AND DIRECT BROADCASTS BY THEIR SPOKESMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED ON ELECTRONIC MEDIA.
- IN RESPONSE TO AN INCREASE IN TERRORIST ATTACKS BY LOYALIST GROUPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY IN OCTOBER ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL POLICE UNIT TO COORDINATE INVESTIGATION OF THESE ATTACKS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO AUGMENTED THE RUC AND BRITISH ARMY FORCES IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO COUNTER THE RECENT UPSURGE IN TERRORISM THERE.
- THE UNITED KINGDOM PARTICIPATES ACTIVELY IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORA, COORDINATING ITS POSITIONS AND ACTIVITIES CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. AND OTHERS. IT ALSO PROVIDES COUNTERTERRORISM ASSISTANCE AND EXPERTISE TO NUMEROUS GOVERNMENTS ON A BILATERAL BASIS.

18. SIGNIFICANT HOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM:

- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PROVIDES NO SUPPORT FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, AND COOPERATES CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. IN APPLYING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS THAT SUPPORT OR CONDONE TERRORISM.

19. PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRIES:

- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO SUCH STATEMENTS.

110. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE 1990 IN HOST GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM:

- THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH CHANGE. THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO TERRORISM IN ALL FORMS.